

INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF HUMAN RIGHTS
USAID COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT EDG-A-00-02-00030-00
PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE
IN THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM

WORK PLAN
1 OCTOBER - 31 DECEMBER 2005

INTRODUCTION

As USAID approved the request to extend the life of the joint IIHR-CEJIL project through December 2006, this report contains an updated work plan through December 2005, to complete the activities for this calendar year.

As the project was extended, the final outputs were rescheduled for 2006 (two publications - one book systematizing the experience of the project and another containing psychological contributions to the Inter-American System-, the final report to the protection bodies and the definitive version of the manual on psychological support for torture victims).

In addition to the final outputs, the following activities included in the 2005 work plan were rescheduled for 2006:

- Five torture cases admitted by the protection bodies of the Inter-American System (to meet the goal of 17 cases in all)
- Thematic file on CEJIL's web page
- Training for the CEJIL team

With regard to the launching of the specialized section, the technological platform will be redesigned and improved in 2005 but will form part of the activities carried out under the amendment (which was approved in September 2005, extending and expanding the current project). The amendment has a separate work plan; hence, the work on the specialized section and the directory of organizations, one of the section's components, is not dealt with in this document.

An updated schedule is attached reflecting the changes proposed and the activities to be implemented between October and December 2005.

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USAID COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT EDG-A-00-02-00030-00

PROJECT: PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE IN THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM

WORK PLAN FOR 2005
Updated in October 2005

FINAL GOAL: To provide psychological support to victims of torture whose cases are being processed in the Inter-American Human Rights Protection System

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR: More and better-quality comprehensive psychological support being provided to torture victims or relatives whose cases are being processed in the Inter-American System

Annual goal 1: To consolidate and disseminate a methodology for providing comprehensive psychological support to torture victims whose cases are being considered by the bodies of the Inter-American System

ACTIVITY	METHOD	DESCRIPTION	RATIONALE	INSTITUTION(S) RESPONSIBLE/ COORDINATION	INTERMEDIATE STEPS	EXPECTED RESULTS	IMPACT INDICATORS
Coordination of the network-team of specialist professionals Objective: To coordinate the work and information sharing of the network-team of professionals specializing in providing comprehensive psychological support to	Project staff will carefully coordinate the comprehensive psychological support provided by members of the network-team in the cases covered by the project. The aim is to exert influence over the protection bodies and generate experiences on which other professionals working in this field can draw.	Between October and December 2005, project staff will communicate with the network-team via email or, if necessary, by phone	The network-team of the project was created in 2003 and consolidated in 2004 through the specialized section (used exclusively by the team) and constant communication via email. This electronic communication network has been useful for sharing information and coordinating the team's activities. In 2005, the main focus	The IIHR will be responsible for coordinating the network-team, with the collaboration of, and input from, CEJIL. During the missions she undertakes, the project coordinator will visit the USAID offices in countries where there are counterparts or victims whose cases could be included.	Strategy for coordinating the activities of the network-team Communication and information sharing among members of the network-team	Enhancement and final design of the methodology through constant communication with the network-team	The network-team is more knowledgeable about the methodology for providing comprehensive psychological support The network-team is stronger The team-network is producing and

torture victims whose cases are being considered by the protection bodies of the Inter-American System	Electronic media will be used to share information, enable the members of the network-team to consult each other and stimulate their work, and help enhance the methodology.		of the coordination of the team (in addition to the psychological support for victims) will be on helping to produce a book on the doctrinal underpinnings of torture cases, the effects of torture and legally binding reparations.				disseminating more knowledge Stakeholders have more access to the theoretical-methodological contributions of the network-team
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ACTIVITY	METHOD	DESCRIPTION	RATIONALE	INSTITUTION(S) RESPONSIBLE/ COORDINATION	INTERMEDIATE STEPS	EXPECTED RESULTS	IMPACT INDICATORS
Comprehensive psychological support for victims of torture or their relatives Objective: To offer coordinated and systematic psychological support to victims or their relatives before and during hearings of the protection bodies of the Inter-American System	The comprehensive psychological support provided before and during the hearings of the protection bodies will be based on the methodology designed during 2003 and enhanced in 2004. It will include aspects of emotional support, the preparation of testimony and support for victims and their relatives. The support will be flexible and tailored to each case, with one or two specialists being assigned, depending on the case and the functions that need to be performed. The aim will also be to raise awareness of how important it is for victims to present their case before the bodies of the Inter-American	Between October and December 2005, each psychologist will assist the victim or his/her relatives in at least 2 torture cases, before and during the hearings. Fifty hours of support will be provided in each case (which may include support for the victim and his/her relatives, the relatives only or the victim only). It is impossible to determine how these hours will be distributed in advance, as it depends on the specific characteristics of each case. The psychological support should cover both the preparatory process and the hearings, and encompass	The comprehensive psychological support to torture victims and their relatives began in 2003, with three cases dealt with under the project. In 2004, support was provided in a further six cases. Throughout the project, the network-team of specialist professionals has used and improved the proposed methodology for providing comprehensive support to victims in the Inter-American System. The network-team has theoretical and methodological tools at its disposal for providing the comprehensive psychological support, available in the specialized	To determine which specialist will deal with each case, the IIHR and CEJIL together will choose the person who best matches the profile of the victim in terms of geographic closeness to his/her place of residence, language skills and area of psychological expertise. The psychological support and the preparation of the reports and presentation of the expert evidence to the protection bodies will be handled by the members of the network-team of specialist professionals assigned to each case. The IIHR will provide them	Assign each case to a specialist Provide comprehensive psychological support to torture victims or their relatives Prepare and present oral and written expert evidence Prepare reports on the process of providing support in each case for the IIHR Coordinate the work of the specialists and CEJIL's lawyers	At least two cases involving torture victims or their relatives processed using the comprehensive psychological support methodology Expert reports prepared by the specialists for presentation in the hearings Sessions of the Inter-American Court and Commission dealt with cases related to the project Specialists' reports on the support provided in each case	Improvement in the quality of the psychological support provided to torture victims granted hearings by the bodies of the Inter-American System Victims more aware of the importance of presenting their case before the Inter-American System More and better documentation on practices for supporting victims of torture More contributions to the comprehensive psychological support methodology

	<p>System. To evaluate the quality of the support, the victims will complete a survey (provided they are able to do so) and the specialists will present reports of the work done on each case (guidelines will be provided for the preparation of reports).</p>	<p>four key aspects: support for the victims, coordination with the lawyers, the preparation of reports and the substantiation of the expert's opinion. These aspects will be addressed using a flexible method of psychological support tailored to the needs of each case, using different strategies to assign specialists to provide expert evidence and psychological support.</p>	<p>section. The main lesson learned in 2004 was that a flexible system was needed for assigning specialists in accordance with the particular needs of each case, to ensure the quality of the support that victims receive and the right legal strategy for influencing the protection bodies.</p>	<p>with guidelines for preparing reports and the psychological support methodology.</p>			
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ACTIVITY	METHOD	DESCRIPTION	RATIONALE	INSTITUTION(S) RESPONSIBLE/ COORDINATION	INTERMEDIATE STEPS	EXPECTED RESULTS	IMPACT INDICATORS
Training and support for the CEJIL team Objective: To ensure that CEJIL staff have professional guidance on how to handle cases involving torture victims	Communication with the lawyers will be strengthened by holding a meeting on the resource available to them (the possibility of consulting psychologists). Litigating lawyers will continue to have access to psychologists, whom they can consult during the litigation process for personal guidance on how to handle cases.	The information about the resource available will be updated during a meeting of CEJIL directors during the October 2005 hearings. Communication will be strengthened by means of an electronic circular that will be sent to the team of lawyers.	This activity will ensure that the CEJIL team: a) has a better grasp of the psychological impact of torture on the victims, b) is better equipped to handle the relationship with the victims and their relatives, and c) incorporates the issue of the psychological impact on torture victims at the institutional level.	CEJIL will handle all the logistical matters involved in the activity.	Disseminate among the members of the CEJIL team information about the advice available from psychologists	Lawyers receiving guidance on support for torture victims	CEJIL team better equipped to handle the psychological aspects of torture cases Legal team better able to provide comprehensive support to torture victims

ACTIVITY	METHOD	DESCRIPTION	RATIONALE	INSTITUTION(S) RESPONSIBLE/ COORDINATION	INTERMEDIATE STEPS	EXPECTED RESULTS	IMPACT INDICATORS
<p>Litigation of torture cases in the Inter-American System</p> <p>Objective: To make progress with the processing of torture cases brought before the system's protection bodies</p>	<p>With the consent of the victims or their relatives, the team will request a hearing at the appropriate time. If the protection body grants one, the team will prepare the case they will present to the Inter-American Court or Commission, as appropriate.</p> <p>Throughout the year, the team will study and gather documentation on torture cases that could be suitable for inclusion in the project. The criteria for selecting the cases are: cases that involve violations of the victim's physical or psychic integrity, under Article 5 of the American Convention or the similar provisions of specific protection instruments; cases</p>	<p>Between October and December 2005, the project expects to be involved in one period of hearings of the Inter-American Commission and another of the Inter-American Court (working on at least 2 cases).</p> <p>The team does not receive much advance warning about which cases are to be considered; it all depends on the decisions taken by the protection bodies. To achieve this result it will be necessary to conduct missions to the country of origin/residence of the victims and their relatives, to</p>	<p>Presenting information about the impact of torture on the victims in the Inter-American System will highlight the complexity of the issue and encourage the bodies of the system to develop adequate solutions.</p>	<p>CEJIL is in charge of litigating the cases supported by the project before the Inter-American Commission and Court. CEJIL informs the IIHR of the cases selected and together the two institutions assign the psychologists to each case and determine the legal strategy to be followed.</p>	<p>Study possible cases. Select at least two cases</p> <p>Carry out visits to document cases</p> <p>Prepare hearings before the Inter-American Court and Commission</p> <p>Assign and coordinate with the psychologist in charge of the case</p> <p>Lawyers take part in hearings</p>	<p>Report on visits to document cases</p> <p>Progress with the legal formalities in at least 2 torture cases brought before the Inter-American Commission and Court, during which the victims or their relatives received psychological support.</p> <p>Hearings of torture cases granted by the protection bodies</p>	<p>Progress with the torture cases processed by the bodies of the Inter-American System</p> <p>The bodies of the Inter-American System are devoting more time and attention to the issue</p>

	<p>that have reached an advanced stage within the system - i.e., the substance or merits of a case brought before the protection bodies is/are being discussed. Completion of the procedural formalities depends on the protection bodies, not CEJIL, which can only petition them to take action. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights has to agree to grant a hearing, while the Court has to announce the date for hearing the case. CEJIL will promote support for leading cases, i.e., innovative cases involving specific issues that the protection bodies have not yet addressed in their jurisprudence, such as the relationship between sexual violence and</p>	<p>prepare and document the cases about which reports will be submitted. CEJIL will maintain direct contact with the victims or their relatives. The exact destinations of the missions will depend on the status of the cases and violations of which the team becomes aware. The staff will also coordinate closely with the psychologist in charge of each case. The Inter-American Commission usually meets twice a year, in February and October. The Inter-American Court meets at least three times a year, with the dates for the next period of sessions being</p>					
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	torture.	set at the end of each one. This means that it is impossible to know with certainty the dates and the issues that the Court intends to address.					
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ACTIVITY	METHOD	DESCRIPTION	RATIONALE	INSTITUTION(S) RESPONSIBLE AND COORDINATION	INTERMEDIATE STEPS	EXPECTED RESULTS	IMPACT INDICATORS
Final design of the methodology for providing comprehensive psychological support Objective: To enhance the methodology used by the network-team to provide comprehensive psychological support to torture victims and present expert evidence to the protection bodies	The final design of the methodology will be included in a manual on the process of providing comprehensive psychological support to torture victims. The manual has been in the process of preparation during 2004 and 2005, incorporating the psychological perspective that the project has promoted and the contributions of CEJIL's legal team	To enhance the manual on the process of providing comprehensive psychological support to torture victims, the inputs received at the meeting of the network-team in March 2005 will be systematized and CEJIL's contributions will be incorporated into the final version of the document, which will be edited and revised for	Designing a methodology for providing comprehensive psychological support to torture victims in the Inter-American System was viewed as necessary from the outset of the project. To fill this gap, the project set up a network-team of professionals with broad experience in assisting victims of political repression (the project's network-	The IIHR will be responsible for contributing the methodological design of the comprehensive psychological support for torture victims. To do so, it will coordinate, meet and maintain electronic communication with the members of the network-team and the lawyers litigating the torture cases included in the project.	Enhance and validate the manual on the process of providing comprehensive psychological support to torture victims	Manual on the process of providing comprehensive psychological support to torture victims will be nearly completed	Continuous improvement of the methodology for providing comprehensive psychological support to torture victims Further development of important aspects of the methodology. Enhancement of the methodological design, useful for all the stakeholders

		publication in 2006.	team of specialist professionals). At the team's meeting in 2003, general strategic lines were established for implementing the methodology and preliminary guidelines were drafted for presenting reports and expert testimony. During 2004, this preliminary methodological design was enhanced with the inputs generated by the network-team through the specialized section and the mailing list, and the work of preparing the manual got under way.				
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Annual Goal 2: To influence the development of the jurisprudence of the Inter-American Human Rights Court and the recommendations and resolutions of the Inter-American Human Rights Commission with regard to psychosocial reparations in torture cases

ACTIVITY	METHOD	DESCRIPTION	RATIONALE	INSTITUTION(S) RESPONSIBLE / COORDINATION	INTERMEDIATE STEPS	EXPECTED RESULTS	IMPACT INDICATORS
Sensitization of the Inter-American System Objective: To improve the solutions to the psychological impact of torture provided by the protection bodies of the Inter-American System	Formal and informal meetings will continue to be held with the protection bodies	Formal meetings will take place during the hearings of the Inter-American Commission slated for March and October 2005, in Washington.	Sensitizing the Inter-American System to torture and its effects on its victims was viewed as necessary from the outset of the project, and the work carried out since then has produced positive results. This process will continue during 2005 with the members of the Inter-American Court and the Commission, focusing on the need to prioritize hearings for the cases promoted by the project and	Both the IIHR and CEJIL, in line with the coordination strategy they agreed on, will coordinate the actions needed to implement these activities, promoting the circulation of the information available on the progress of the project, and the informal meetings with representatives of the Inter-American Commission and Court. Advantage will be taken of the project coordinator's two visits to the Inter-American Commission in Washington to meet with the USAID officials in charge of the project.	Coordinate and hold informal meetings with representatives of the Inter-American Commission and the Court Circulate information between the IIHR and CEJIL	Meetings with representatives of the Inter-American Commission and Court Members of the protection bodies sensitized to the project's subject area	Progress made in the jurisprudence on torture of the Inter-American Commission and Court Progress made in sensitizing the two bodies to the psychological impact of torture Psychosocial reparations for victims or their relatives incorporated into the recommendations/judgments of the bodies of the Inter-American System

			<p>to order comprehensive psychosocial reparations in the respective resolutions/judgments. This will contribute to the development of jurisprudence and produce greater benefits for the victims, their relatives and society as a whole.</p>				
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ACTIVITIES	METHOD	DESCRIPTION	RATIONALE	INSTITUTION(S) RESPONSIBLE/ COORDINATION	INTERMEDIATE STEPS	EXPECTED RESULTS	IMPACT INDICATORS
Dissemination of information about the project Objective: To afford greater access to information about torture and its psychological impact on the victims or relatives, and psychological support, linked especially to the Inter-American System	All the publications will be edited and revised. The project will continue to distribute the material available (CEJIL's specialized Gaceta) and prepare the new materials planned for the last year of the project. Disseminating the material produced will increase the project's influence over the protection bodies by making standards of comprehensive reparations for torture victims available to their users and publicizing the development of jurisprudence, for which specific material will be prepared and published on the subject.	The outputs being prepared during the October-December quarter are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book of theoretical-conceptual contributions on important issues addressed by the project • Manual on psychological support for torture victims in legal contexts CEJIL will continue preparing the outputs planned (publications). Further efforts will be made to identify materials on the subject available in other countries, to see whether they	The purpose of these outputs is to disseminate knowledge about aspects of the methodology for providing psychological support in the Inter-American system, and the coordination of initiatives in the psychological and legal fields. The aim is to publicize the work done by the project so that other users of the System can replicate the experience and more victims and their defenders are familiar with the project's outputs. One of the aspects confirmed by CEJIL in 2004 was the limited information available about the project's	The IIHR and CEJIL will implement actions aimed at disseminating information about the project beyond the bodies of the System and the network-team	Prepare and revise the materials for publication Prepare and validate the manual on psychological support for torture victims	Progress with the preparation of the following outputs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book of theoretical-conceptual contributions • Manual on psychological support for torture victims 	More people informed about the psychological impact of torture and psychological support methodologies

		would be worth distributing under the project. This will also involve looking to non-traditional sectors within the human rights field.	subject area. Thus, the project will create alternative circuits for accessing the information. The aim is to make the work carried out as visible as possible and facilitate defenders' access to information on this issue specifically.				
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SCHEDULE FOR 2005 - Updated in October 2005

PROJECT: PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE IN THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM

ACTIVITIES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Activities to be carried out by the IIHR												
Electronic communication with network-team												
Comprehensive psychological support for victims of torture or their relatives												
Meetings with specialists and lawyers												
Analysis psychological reports presented by specialists												
Preliminary version of manual on the psychological support process												
Enhancement of manual on the psychological support process												
Meetings with representatives of the bodies (Washington DC, USA)												
Preparation working meeting of network-team												
Working meeting of network-team (San Jose, Costa Rica)												
Systematization of contributions made by meeting of network-team												
Preparation and production of publication												
Activities to be carried out by CEJIL												
Coordination of supply of psychological support for the CEJIL team												
Preparation of visits to region												
Implementation of visits to region												
Preparation of reports on visits												
Analysis of cases for which hearings could be												

ACTIVITIES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
requested												
Preparation and presentation of requests for hearings to the Commission												
Follow-up to the requests for hearings												
Identification of the specialist who will provide the support and preparation of the written expert evidence												
Preparation of hearings granted												
Holding of hearings												
Informal meetings with representatives of the Commission and the Court (Washington DC, USA)												
Implementation of follow-up to training for CEJIL team												
Follow-up to training for CEJIL team: preparation of training scheduled for 2006 and materials												
Preparation and publication of materials												